



Congressional Hispanic Caucus

109th Congress Congresswoman Grace Flores Napolitano, Chair

For Immediate Release

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Hispanic Caucus Joins Other Congressional Democrats in Fight to Protect Social Security at Rally on Capitol Hill

Washington, DC – Today, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus joined Senators and other Congressmembers in declaring a united front to protect and strengthen Social Security. At a rally attracting thousands of participants from across the country, Congressional Democrats showed their strong opposition to privatizing Social Security, a move that is believed to disproportionately harm Latinos.

“The President and the America public need to know that the party of President Roosevelt will not let die a program that has for seventy years protected millions of individuals from poverty,” said CHC Chair, Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano. “People work hard and contribute from their meager earnings to the fund. They deserve for it to be there for them and their families when they need it most: when the bread winner retires, is injured, or passes way. Social Security is many Latinos’ only insurance against poverty.”

According to information from the U.S. Census Bureau, more than 75 percent of Latinos aged 65 or older receive income from Social Security, but only 15 percent have income from pensions or annuities and 28 percent have income from assets. Over three-quarters of these individuals rely on Social Security for half or more of their total income. Almost half for those rely on Social Security for 90 percent or more of their total income.

The CHC joined other Members of Congress in signing a Declaration of Unity pledging to strengthen Social Security, not privatize it. Democrats pledged to "work to improve the retirement security of all Americans and oppose any scheme for deep benefit cuts or massive debt to fund risky accounts."

A copy of the Declaration of Unity follows:

A Declaration of Unity

Protect Social Security, Stop Privatization

Social Security guarantees Americans that if they work hard, contribute, and play by the rules, they have earned the right to retire in dignity, and their families will be protected in the event of disability or death.

We are united in our commitment to strengthen Social Security, not privatize it.

We will work to improve the retirement security of all Americans and will oppose any scheme for deep benefit cuts or massive debt to fund risky private accounts.

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The Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) is comprised of 21 members of Congress of Hispanic descent. Since 1976 the CHC has been addressing the needs of the Hispanic community in all areas of American life. For more information on the CHC call (202) 225-2410.

www.napolitano.house.gov/chc/